Bilingual Education/EL Program
Consortium
Dr. Su McKeithen-Polish
MISD Bilingual Education/Title III Consultant
Phone: 586-228-3481
The MISD Bilingual English Learner Program provides bilingual instructional assistants who help English language learner students to learn English and to achieve competency in English language and reading skills, providing them to an equal access to education in a classroom where English only is spoken.

Who are the English Language Learners? EL students are those who either:

♦ Come from a home where a language other than English is spoken.

♦ Speak a language other than English as their primary means of communicating.

♦ Are learning English but have sufficient difficulty in understanding, speaking, reading or writing English as to deny the students the opportunity to learn successfully in an English only classroom.

Who are the eligible English Language Learners?

♦ Students in grades K through 2nd grade whose home language is other than English and whose parents want additional academic support are eligible without testing.

♦ Students in grades 3rd through 12th whose home language is other than English and who score below the proficiency level on a state standardized English Proficiency Test of WIDA.

How can a student be included in the MISD Bilingual/EL Program?

When a student who speaks a language other than English in the home enrolls in one of the participating school districts, the district personnel administer a standardized reading test to determine eligibility. Then the principal refers the student to the MISD Bilingual office. The program then assigns a Bilingual Instructional Assistant (BIA) to further assess the student’s English proficiency using an oral language assessment in English and a vocabulary assessment in both English and native language. Then the BIA provides the needed assistance.

Funding Sources: MISD

Participating Macomb County LEAs

Title III Funds

What Services Do We Offer?

♦ Direct service tutoring assistance to the EL students in basic English skills and help in reading comprehension of core content areas by a bilingual instructional assistant who comes to the local school.

♦ Provide cultural awareness workshops to schools/districts.

♦ Provide instructional resources to parents.

♦ Training of parents and staff of participating districts in the areas of bilingual/EL and multicultural education.

Assisting local school in implementation of instructional programs designed to enhance cultural awareness.

Interpreting services for parents in parent teacher conferences, parent–child study meetings and special education related matters for EL students.

♦ Translation of school documents